BOOK REVIEW

Cerambycidae of North America. Part VI, No. 2. Taxonomy and classification of the subfamily Lepturinae. By E. Gorton Linsley and John A. Chemsak. 1976. Univ. Calif. Publ. Entomology 80: ix + 186 p. $8.75.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the birth of this volume, a continuation of the monograph of North American Cerambycidae. Now, this great study seems much nearer to completion; only the Lamiinae remain, and the authors must be encouraged to continue onward to the end. For North American Coleoptera this project is a trailblazer. Similar studies are needed of our other large families, notable Carabidae, Staphylinidae, Scarabaeidae, Chrysomelidae, and Curculionidae. Who will assume these tremendous tasks? We do have Lindroth's magnificent treatment of the northern Carabidae, but still nothing for the United States. Monographs of the poorly known Staphylinidae and Curculionidae, sorely needed though they are, clearly remain for the distant future; but work on the other families should begin at once.

As one without practical familiarity with Cerambycidae, I shall not here do a detailed, analytical review; format and standards are as in previous volumes. One particular observation, however, is that this work is the second and concluding part of the treatment of the Lepturinae; it must be used in conjunction with Part VI, No. 1 (Univ. Calif. Publ. Ent. 69: viii + 138 p., 2 pl.), particularly since the key to genera of Lepturini is a continuation (couplets 1-22 in No. 1, couplets 23-57 in No. 2).

By my rough count, new taxonomic conclusions are the following: New taxa—6 genera, 1 subgenus (subgenera are treated only for *Pidolia*), 4 species, 8 subspecies; new status—1 genus (elevated from subgenus), 2 subspecies (reduced from species); new generic combinations—22 species, 4 subspecies; and new synonymies— 1 genus; group name, 16 species-group names. These figures reflect previous confusion at generic level; unfortunately, although the stated intent of this reevaluation was to clarify evolutionary relationships, no detailed explanations are given. The combination of few new species but numerous new synonymies results from the relatively intensive study given members of this family over the years. Knowledge of the species and their distributions is generally sufficient to now permit detailed studies of relationships at infraspecific levels. In my opinion, detailed discussions of variation are of more value than formal recognition of subspecies, but where the authors have distinguished subspecies they seem to have done so on a meaningful geographic basis.

Some general criticisms, which obviously should not be considered for future volumes of this series but rather for similar studies of other families, are these. (1) The table of contents might be expanded into a checklist, giving authors names and (ideally) also listing synonyms. (2) Information of status and location of type-specimens should be included, as is the statement on type-locality. (3) Critical, key characters should be illustrated; habitus figures might be given for a representative of each genus, rather than the more random format used here; and at least some genital figures should have been prepared, if only to illustrate their minimal usefulness for cerambycid taxonomy. (4) My principal objection is in the distribution maps: These should be given for all species, allowing the user to make direct comparisons; I note also that some of the maps that are used (as on pp. 127, 128) take up far more space than they justify.

These brief comments form only a minor aside. Students of Cerambycidae surely will find this book indispensable for at least the rest of this century. All coleopterists must stand in salute to this monumental work.

—D. R. Whitehead